

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

September 2012 Edition

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Welcome!

It's Back to School Time and September is appropriately named "National Preparedness Month" in Howard County! While you prepare your children for school, take a moment to prepare your family for what to do in emergency situations as the summer winds down, here are some activities for you to take advantage of in the coming months within our District Two community and beyond.

Know of any great community

events? Please share them with me

so that they can be reviewed for inclusion in this newsletter!

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at

cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

67th Annual Howard County Fair... Entertainment For All!

The 67th annual Howard County Fair will run through **Saturday, August 11, 2012** and will be open daily from 8am-11pm at the **Howard County Fairgrounds, 2210 Fairground Road** in West Friendship, MD. Visitors will have opportunities to enjoy amusement rides and games, barn animals, pony rides, pig races, bingo, magic shows and much more!

Admission is \$5 for individuals 10yrs and up, \$2 for Seniors 62yrs+ and FREE for children under 10. Parking is FREE. Tuesday is "Senior Day" where seniors 62+ are FREE ALL DAY. For more info, call 410-442-1022 or visit www.howardcountyfair.org.



29th Annual National Night Out!

On **Tuesday, August 7th**, communities are encouraged to participate in National Night Out. This is a unique crime/drug prevention event which involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, local businesses and neighborhood organizations which is designed to: strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

PlanHoward 2030 Has Been Approved!

After much planning and careful consideration, the Howard County Council has adopted Council Bill 26, also known as *PlanHoward 2030*. *PlanHoward 2030* is the next General Plan that will create a sustainability framework for enhancing our economy, environment and quality of life. The Council truly appreciates all the valuable feedback and guidance it received from residents throughout this process.

To view the specifics of the PlanHoward 2030, click [here](#).

PLAN HOWARD
your county. your plan.



Support Our Local Farmers... Visit a Farmers Market Near You!



Summertime is the perfect opportunity to go out in your local community and take advantage of our local farmers' markets. Buying local products helps our local economy and provides our residents a perfect opportunity to taste the freshest, most delicious products. This season you will find ripe produce, baked goods, fruits of the season, flowers, transplants, organically grown produce and specialty items. See below for a list of farmer's markets closest to you as well as important dates and times of operation.

Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia

Hours of Operation: Sundays through November 18 from 9am-1pm

Howard County Library – East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia

Hours of Operation: Thursdays through November 15 2-6pm

WIC & Senior FMNP checks accepted at all markets. For a complete list of locations or for more details, visit www.HowardCountyFarmersMarkets.com.

Perseid Meteor Shower!

Watch the night sky light up as thousands of particles enter the Earth's atmosphere! This spectacular event will take place Saturday, **August 11, 2012 10pm – 2am**. For details, visit www.hconservancy.org or call 410-465-8877.

Cuts Against Cancer!

On **Sunday, August 12th**, the 15th annual Cuts Against Cancer will be held from **10am-4pm** in the lobby of the Medical Pavilion at Howard County General Hospital, 10710 Charter Drive in Columbia. This philanthropic event raises money for the Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource Center.

Items offered will include: haircuts, manicures, facial waxing and seated massages from some of the best salons and stylists in Howard County. Those looking to take advantage of a haircut are asked to arrive with clean hair. Enter the day of beauty raffles or bid on auction items. For more details, visit http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/howard_county_general_hospital/ways_give/howard_hospital_foundation/foundation_events/cuts_against_cancer.html. For more details, call Pam Mason at 410-381-2440 or Anita Broccolino at 410-740-7570 or email abroccolino@hcgh.org.



Long Reach Community Carnival!

Come celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of a brand new school year! The annual Community Carnival will be held **Friday, August 24, 2012 12-3pm** at Long Reach High School. If you would like to rent a vendor space, please contact Cindy Selber at Cindy.Selber@hcpss.org.

Summertime Youth Activities – “Community Athletic Program” Continues

The Howard County Police Department is hosting its mobile Community Athletic Program (CAP) during the summer which includes a traveling recreation center that provides constructive activities for youth during the summer. The mobile unit consists of a traveling trailer filled with sports gear, games and video game equipment and is staffed by a school resource officers and other youth services officers.

The trailer will visit a different neighborhood each day of the week and then return to that neighborhood on the same day in subsequent weeks. The program is an integral part of the agency’s multi-faceted crime fighting and anti-gang strategy. CAP runs through **August 17th, Monday through Friday 9am-4:30pm.**

The schedule is as follows:

Mondays	Talbott Springs Pool, 9660 Basket Ring Road, Oakland Mills
Tuesdays	Ridgley Run Community Center, 8400 Mission Road, Jessup
Wednesdays	Celebration Community Church, 6080 Foreland Garth, Long Reach
Thursdays	North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel
Fridays	East Columbia Branch, Howard County Library, 6600 Cradle Rock Way, Owen Brown

P.L.E.D.G.E. Leadership Camp!

The P.L.E.D.G.E. Leadership Camp is a one week program designed to deter rising 9th grade students from the lures of gang activity. Through a series of discussions and practical activities, participants learn the value of team work and develop leadership skills. Lessons and activities challenge their ability to make critical decisions, focus on core beliefs and values, recognize diversity and accept these differences as they work together towards a common goal. Camp runs **August 13-16, 2012.**

For more details, please call **Debbie Gunn** at **410-313-2620.**

Teacher Appreciation Day at Staples!



Attention all teachers and paraeducators... Don't miss out on this great opportunity to enjoy great perks at your local Staples Stores. The following Staples locations will host events on **Saturday, August 18, 2012 9am-12pm:** **6225 Columbia Crossing Circle** in Columbia and **9091 Snowden River Parkway** in Columbia.

Enjoy **FREE** thank you gift bags (to the first 100 teachers while supplies last) along with a bonus coupon to use at the event, receive a sneak peek at must-have new items for your classroom and spend quality time catching up with colleagues. For add'l details, visit <http://www.staples.com/sbd/cre/marketing/tad/index.html>.

Back to School/End of the Summer Bash!

Join the Oakland Mills community for the last hoorah of the summer before school begins. Scheduled for **Thursday, August 23, 2012**, residents and kids can enjoy music, food and much more! This **FREE** event will be held in the Oakland Mills Courtyard and will feature DJ Trestylz. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Bring in new school supplies to donate for the “Prepare for Success” backpacks. For more info, contact **Fred Eiland** at **410-730-1129** or email omcommunityorganizer@columbiavillages.org.

Attention Long Reach Residents... Beautify Your Cul-de-Sacs!

Looking to make improvements to your cul-de-sac? The Long Reach Community Association is now offering landscaping grants that could provide you and your community up to \$200 if your plan is approved to be used to purchase plant materials and receive coupons from local nurseries to help stretch your dollars! Grants are limited and applications will be available until **August 30, 2012** for pickup at Stonehouse. For more info, call **410-730-8113.**

Best of Howard County Needs Nominees!

Want to honor your favorite businesses? Howard Magazine cordially invites you to nominate your favorite business and/or community members in Howard County. All nominees must be located in Howard County and ballots with fewer than 10 nominations will be disregarded. The deadline to submit your nominations is **Saturday, September 1, 2012**. Cast your vote today at www.howardmagazine.com.



Attention High School Students - Educational College Tours!

FDTours Educational College Tours is devoted to the intellectual advancement of America's youth. They offer round trip college tours to Colleges and Universities throughout the country. Tours are specifically designed for the high school students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 and for the student who is looking for a broader selection during the college search.

There are two upcoming tours during summer 2012. The Summer Sizzle Tour will take place **Wednesday, August 8, 2012** and depart from Howard High School at 9am. The tour will feature the following: University of Maryland College Park and Howard University with a bonus visit to Six Flags. The bus will return to Howard HS at 9pm. The Capitol Tour will be held on Monday, **September 17, 2012** and will depart from Howard High School at 8am. The tour will feature the following visits: Georgetown University, Catholic University, George Washington, and American University.

The bus will return to Howard HS at 8pm. The tour includes roundtrip transportation, breakfast and onboard snacks. There is a cost of \$99/per person per tour. Register online at www.FDTours.com. For additional information, call 410-262-6482 or email FD@fdtours.com.

25th Annual Howard Community College Grand Prix!

"Watch Horses Fly and Help Students Soar"! Saddle up and head out to Marama Farm on **Saturday, September 22, 2012 9:30am-4pm** to watch world-class equestrians soar over obstacles and race against the clock – all for a great cause. Proceeds from the event benefit the HCC Educational Foundation to provide funding assistance to HCC students. In addition to thrilling equestrian action, the HCC Grand Prix includes vendors, games, food, music and family fun.

To purchase tickets, visit <http://www.howardcc.edu/donors/specialevents/grandprix/index.html>. For details call 443-518-1070



SUMMER'S END 5K FUN RUN/WALK benefiting the Elkridge Food Pantry & Garden

Join us for a post-race food, music and family fun! This 5k run to be held on **Sunday, September 16, 2012** beginning at 8am and the Start/Finish line will begin at the Elkridge Food Pantry and Garden, 5660 Furnace Ave in Elkridge, MD. Parking is available across the street at the Volleyball House. Pre-Registration is necessary before September 2, 2012 to receive a FREE T-Shirt!

100% of all proceeds benefit the Elkridge Food Pantry and Garden, a non-profit organization serving members of the local community. Signup online at www.summersend5k.org. Entry Fees: Adults \$20/per person, Children 12 and under \$10, Families (4 or more) \$40. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Course details: The course is flat, paved and free of traffic. Run/Walk will take place rain or shine. Baby strollers and wheelchairs welcome. No bikes, roller blades, skateboards, scooters or motorized vehicles allowed. Optional 2 mile walk available.

Block Party Kits Now Available in Long Reach!

Party with your neighbors this summer! Holding a block party is a fabulous way to meet new neighbors and catch up with old friends. Free planning kits, including helpful tips are now available at Stonehouse for parties between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Enjoy free copies of your invitations and even a \$25 grocery store gift certificate to help purchase supplies. For more info, stop by the Stonehouse or call 410-730-8113.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Voices For Change <http://www.facebook.com/HCV4C#!/HCV4C/info> or email MMekelburg7@verizon.net

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

4H Club: For youth in grades 3 and above. Meets every 2nd Friday of the month at The Other Barn 3:30-5pm. Call 410-992-3726 for more info

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

Equal Business Opportunity Initiative!

Howard County Government is committed in fostering a strong socio-economic environment by promoting diversity and inclusiveness in its purchasing activities. To this effect, the County's Equal Business Opportunity Program is designed to enhance opportunities and increase participation of minority, woman and disabled business enterprises. For more information on how your business can benefit from this program, contact **Mahesh Sabnani**, Equal Business Opportunity Coordinator, Office of Purchasing at 410-313-3694. Mr. Sabnani will be pleased to provide your business with guidance, assistance and direction.

Help Those in Need - Route 1 Day Center and Living in Recovery Needs Your Help!

The Day Resource Center relies on donations and volunteers to make meaningful contributions to the lives of those they serve. Please consider by helping by donating the following items that are in short supply: Batteries, men's underwear, men's jeans, thermal socks, bottled water – 20oz size, Gatorade, peanut butter and jelly, tuna, canned chicken, chef Boyardee-15oz can, spaghetti-15oz can, chunky soups, dinty moore beef stew, baked beans with meat, underwood deviled ham, libby's canned corned beef, Vienna sausages, spam, beef jerky and canned fruit. There are also volunteer opportunities at the Center and outside the Center. Please check their website for current lists of supply and volunteer needs at www.daycenter.org.

Living in Recovery is a new nonprofit organization formed to provide sober housing for persons in recovery from drug or alcohol addiction. As they plan to open doors on their second house in July, they are turning to the community for furniture donations. Items in good condition should include: mattress (box springs and frames for twin), pillows, bedding sets, twin or full size only, dressers, night stands, bed lamps, sofas, arm chairs, end tables, floor lamps, dining table and chairs, folding chairs, coffee maker, toaster, toaster oven, microwave, vacuum cleaner, dinnerware, glassware, flatware, cookware, iron and board, towels bath mats, shower curtains, window coverings and drapes or shades. If you can help, please email Joe at JWillmott@verizon.net.

Volunteer of the Year Nominations Now Sought!

We are currently seeking nominations for the 2012 "Volunteer of the Year" Awards program. Do you know an outstanding individual (youth and adults), non-profit organizations or governmental agencies, and for-profit organizations or community groups that have demonstrated commitment and dedication to our community? If so, you're encouraged to submit their name for consideration. The deadline is **Friday, September 7, 2012** and forms are available online at www.howardcountymd.gov/voy.htm. For more details, call 410-313-2023.

Make a Difference In a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to Howard County public school students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chava Karlan at aokmentor@email.com or call 410-730-6030

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling **410-313-4076**. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Health Care Options For You or Your Family!

The “Door to HealthCare” provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make0up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

“The Door to HealthCare” is located to the rear of **7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD**. For further information, call **410-988-3737**.

“Your Local Career Connection” Helps In Your Search For Employment!

Howard County’s Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 12th century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing.

For more details, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=1863> or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is online at <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/howcal.shtml>.

FREE Career Advancement and Computer Training for Adults!

Find a job or move up in your current position! This opportunity is **FREE** for low- to moderate-income residents of Howard County. Registration is **Mondays 10am-2pm** or by appointment and is located at Pinnacle Career Resources, Chartwell Professional Park, 8180 Lark Brown Road, Suite 301 in Elkridge. For more details, call Cindy at **410-799-1097**.

Share Your Opinion on the Howard County Public School System!

You are cordially invited to share your comments on the Howard County Public School System through the Goal 2 Survey. This survey measures your attitudes in five categories: welcoming environment, physical environment, discipline, nurturing learning environment and diversity/commonality. Your responses should reflect your feelings about the school your child attends. To participate, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Goal2ParentEnglish>. For assistance or for more info, call **410-313-7475** or **410-313-6755**.

Vacancies on Howard County's Boards and Commissions

Howard County Government is actively seeking volunteers to serve on several Boards and Commissions. Below you will find details including information on how to apply.

- **Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and help review services and the need for services relating to alcohol or drug abuse education, treatment and prevention in Howard County. Candidates must be 18yrs or older, have an interest in drug and alcohol treatment and prevention services and be able to attend the Board's meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:15-6:30pm. For details, call **410-313-6225**.
- **Board of Social Services.** Board members serve three year terms and provide advice on the application and formulation of state policies, procedures and programs that apply to Howard County and to evaluate the local director of the Department of Social Services. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18yrs or older, have an interest in social services, and be able to attend the Board's meetings held the third Monday of each month at 4pm in the Department of Social Services Conference Room, 7121 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. For details, call **410-872-8767**.
- **Commission for Women.** Commission members serve five year terms and help to promote the economic, social and political equality of women in Howard County. The Commission publicizes services and activities of interest to women, promotes a positive image of women and recognizes their accomplishments, encourages the expansion of educational and employment opportunities for women and sponsors workshops and seminars on issues specific to women. Candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in women equality and be able to attend the Commission's meetings which are held the second Tuesday of each month from 7-9pm in the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. For details, call **410-313-6400**.
- **Consumer Affairs Advisory Board.** Board members serve five year terms and are responsible for reviewing the Office of Consumer Affairs programs, holding public hearings as deemed necessary and making recommendations to the Office on how it may better carry out its duties. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in consumer issues and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held the third Wednesday of each month from 7-9pm at the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia.
- **Board of Electrical Examiners.** Commission is comprised of seven members who serve five year terms and must include two licensees under electrical regulations or representatives of an electrical inspection bureau, one electrical engineer and four general public members. Board members are responsible for making recommendations to the Director of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP), the County Executive and the County Council on all matters relating to electrical work in Howard County, including the conduct of electrical business and licenses. To be eligible, candidates must be Howard County residents, 18 years of age or older and have an interest in electrical work. The Board meets on an as needed basis; meetings are held at 5pm in DILP, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. For more info, visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/electriclexaminersboard.htm> or call **410-313-1820**.
- **Recreation & Parks Advisory Board – Student Member.** The Board is comprised of nine voting members who serve five year terms and one student, non-voting member, who serves a one-year term from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. The Advisory Board provides recommendations related to plans, policies and programs for public recreation and reviews plans for and hold hearings on the acquisition and development of land for public recreation and open space. Candidates must be Howard County residents, under the age of 18 years old, have an interest in recreation and parks and be able to attend the Board's meetings which are held approximately once a month throughout the year beginning at 7:30pm at the Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. For details, call **410-313-4700** or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP.

Applicants should send a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve to: Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

Do You Need Bulk-Item Pick-Up?

Bulk Trash Item pick-up has resumed but items must be scheduled by calling **410-313-6444** or visiting www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org. These items typically do not fit in trash cans and could include mattresses, chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc. Bulk METAL Item pick-up began starting **October 1, 2012** and must be scheduled in advance by calling **410-313-6444**. Items must be placed at the curb by 6am (no earlier than 6pm the night before). Please do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants. **NOTE:** It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pickup scrap metal at the curb (Howard County Code 18.610)

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are 9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Other times may be considered. For more information, call **410-992-1923 x 14**.

CAC's Weatherization Program Changes Eligibility Requirements to

The Community Action Council administers the Weatherization program for the State of Maryland. Recently, the State has changed the eligibility criteria for the program to include moderate income families. As such, the program is no longer only targeting low income families. Based upon the new guidelines, many friends and family members might be eligible for this wonderful **FREE** service.

Is your home energy efficient? Determine if you are eligible for **FREE** weatherization services. Maximum family income for eligibility is as follows:

Family Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$4,079
2	\$4,663
3	\$5,242
4	\$5,821
5	\$6,292

Applications are available online at http://cac-hc.org/cac_howtoapplyweatherization.htm. For more info, call 410-313-1181.



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard county Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

Here is a list of the upcoming meetings:

- **Tuesday, August 14 8-9am.** BBI WEBINAR Series: A Paradigm Shift to Sustainability. Open to the first 50 BBI Partners. To register, visit <https://ezgovopps.webex.com/ezgovopps/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=663939429>.
- **Thursday, August 23 12-1:30pm** at 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. BBI Brown Bag: Presenting our Capabilities like Steve Jobs. Open to the first 25 registered BBI partners. Register by emailing company, name, and title to KFew@howardcountymd.gov.

The database is **FREE** of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at <http://www.selfvetting.com/events/BBI/APL/> and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ridge launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- **Experiencing an Emergency?** Dial 9-1-1
- **Want to report an incident, non-emergency?** Call 410-313-2200
- **Need to report drug activity?** Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to make an anonymous tip** (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to report gun crimes?** Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- **Do you need Victim Assistance?** Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- **Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey?** Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- **Want to start a Neighborhood Watch?** Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- **Looking to prevent Auto Theft?** Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- **Want to report an animal cruelty incident or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?** Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Are speeders in your neighborhood?** Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- **Looking for personal safety tips?** Visit www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm
- **Interested in a Police Ride-Along?** Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- **Need a HCPD Spanish line?** Call 410-313-7807.
- **Interested in volunteering with the HCPD?** Call 410-313-2255
- **Interesting in HCPD Recruitment?** Call 410-313-4273.

“Guaranteed Ride Home” Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. “Guaranteed Ride Home” offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you’re looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, visit www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor. Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and instantly you will be given a list of providers in your area! For more details, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These “minute clinics” are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For additional information or a list of providers, contact our Health Department online at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Departments.aspx?ID=290> or call 410-313-6300.

Recycling... Do’s And Don’ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/whatshouldidowith.htm> or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/recycling.htm>.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call **410-313-6444**.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: **1-800-506-5806**.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at **7:30pm** the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call **410-313-6682** or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, visit http://www.alz.org/maryland/in_my_community_support.asp#Central. For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Displayprimary.aspx?ID=4294968832>. Council meetings open to the public and I encourage you to join us. A list of upcoming meetings can be found online at <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/displayprimary.aspx?ID=6442459444>.

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http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax 410-313-3297.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.**

"The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." ~ Albert Schweitzer